First Preliminary Amendment dated Dec. 6, 2006

Docket No.: 31869-230430

## REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is made to amend claims 1 and 3 to place them in better form for examination and add claims 4-7. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. In view of the above amendments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should no remittance be attached, or should any greater or lesser fee be required, please charge or credit our Account No. 22-0261 and advise us accordingly.

Dated: Dec. 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 41,289

VENABLE LLP P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant